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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, MARCH QUARTER 1976

MAIN FEATURES

- Average weekly earnings per employed male unit for the March quarter 1976 were \$165.80.
- Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings were \$171.20. This was 2.4 per cent higher than for the previous quarter and 13.3 per cent higher than for the March quarter 1975.
- It is estimated that in the March quarter 1976 the seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings, excluding overtime, of full-time adult male non-managerial wage and salary earners were \$154.00, a rise of 11.6 per cent over the estimate for the same period last year.

Introduction

This publication presents estimates of average weekly earnings of civilian wage and salary earners. Earnings figures for Australia are shown for each quarter from September quarter 1967 and for States for each quarter from December quarter 1974. Financial year averages are also shown for the period 1966-67 to 1974-75.

Definition of earnings

2. The earnings figures used in the calculation of the averages shown in Tables 1 and 2 comprise award and over-award wages and salaries, the earnings of employees not covered by awards, overtime earnings, bonuses and allowances, commissions, directors' fees and payments made retrospectively or in advance during the quarter. Earnings of part-time as well as full-time employees, and of juniors as well as adults, are included.

3. Earnings figures used in calculating the averages shown in Table 3 comprise earnings as defined in the previous paragraph, with the exception of overtime earnings and the earnings of part-time employees and managerial, executive, etc. staff.

Method of estimation

4. For industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, particulars of employment and wages and salaries are derived from payroll tax returns and from direct returns from government and other bodies. These returns account for approximately 90 per cent of wage and salary earners in these industries, as

published monthly in the bulletin *Employment and Unemployment* (Reference No. 6.4). Estimates are made for the unrecorded balance in terms of both numbers and earnings. The level of average earnings estimated for the unrecorded sector is approximately 80 per cent of the level shown by the direct returns. For agriculture and private domestic service, employment and earnings are estimated from other sources and are included in the calculations.

5. For employees reported on more than one payroll, all reported wage and salary earnings are included in calculation of the averages.

Male units

6. Particulars of wages and salaries paid are not available for males and females separately from the sources used for this series; average weekly earnings have therefore been calculated in terms of *male units*, i.e. total male employees plus a proportion of female employees, the proportion being derived from the estimated ratio of female to male average earnings. Different ratios of female to male average earnings are used for individual States, based on information from annual surveys of weekly earnings and hours and other sources. Ratios used for the current quarter are as follows: New South Wales 65 per cent, Victoria 65, Queensland 63, South Australia 62, Western Australia 60, Tasmania 65, the Northern Territory 64 and the Australian Capital Territory 60. As the number of male units used in calculating Australian average weekly earnings is the sum of the estimates for the States and Territories, a separate ratio for Australia is not used, but the weighted average of the State and Territory ratios is approximately 64 per cent. Changes in these ratios may be necessary from one quarter to the next to reflect, for example, the extension of equal pay provisions, or appreciable and sustained changes in the levels of male overtime earnings. However, small differences in these ratios have relatively little effect on the earnings figures; if the ratio is understated by one per cent then average weekly earnings of \$170 would be overstated by about 70 cents.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

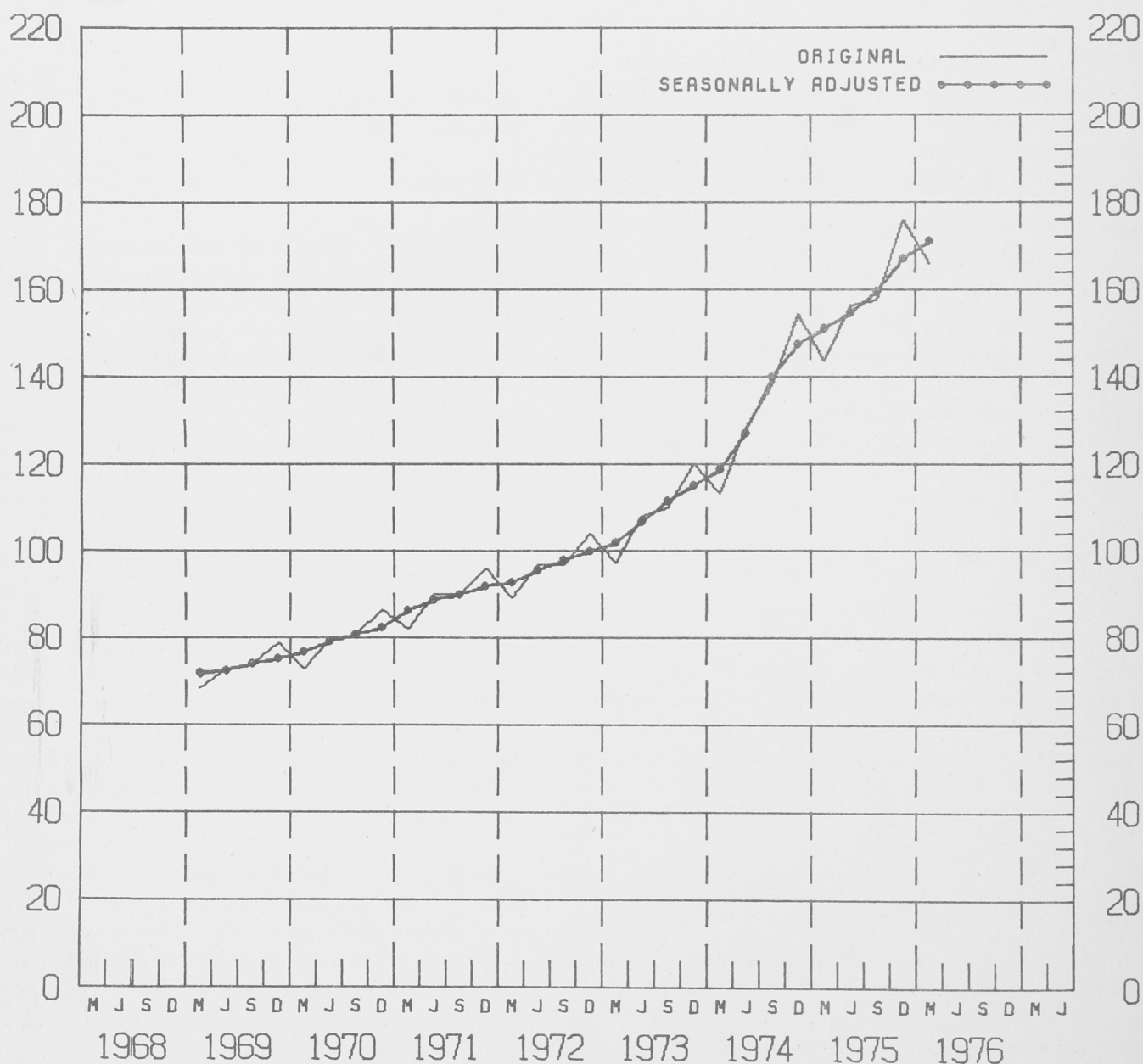
7. Quarterly figures are affected by seasonal influences. For example, special payments, including prepayment for holiday periods, tend to raise the December quarter and to depress the March quarter averages. In addition, figures are affected by the varying

number of pay-days in different quarters, (with the exception of Australian Government paydays in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, for which special adjustments have been made in the original series). Allowance for these variations, and for recurring seasonal influences, has been made in calculating the seasonally adjusted estimates for all series shown in the tables.

8. The seasonal adjustment factors were derived from a series from which the influence of major changes in awards and determinations and estimates of the effects of pay-day variations had first been removed. While the seasonally adjusted series retain the effect of the major award, etc. changes, the pay-day effect is excluded. A detailed description of the methods of seasonal adjustment is given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, 1976* (Reference No. 1.10) to be issued later this year.

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Graham Angus on 52 6572 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) AUSTRALIA
(\\$)



(a) For explanation see paragraph 6 on page 1.

TABLE 1. — AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : AUSTRALIA

Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %	Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %
1967 —					1972				
September	64.40	64.40	+1.7	+5.7	March	89.20	92.70	+1.0	+7.3
December	67.10	64.90	+0.8	+5.9	June	96.70	95.60	+3.1	+7.7
1968 —					September	96.80	98.10	+2.6	+8.8
March	63.20	65.80	+1.4	+5.8	December	104.10	100.10	+2.0	+9.0
June	67.30	66.90	+1.7	+5.7	1973 —				
September	67.80	67.90	+1.5	+5.4	March	97.20	101.80	+1.7	+9.8
December	72.50	69.80	+2.8	+7.6	June	107.80	106.60	+4.7	+11.5
1969 —					September	110.20	111.70	+4.8	+13.9
March	68.50	72.10	+3.3	+9.6	December	119.90	115.40	+3.3	+15.3
June	72.80	72.40	+0.6	+8.1	1974 —				
September	74.10	74.10	+2.3	+8.8	March	113.30	118.70	+2.9	+16.6
December	79.00	75.30	+1.6	+7.9	June	128.50	127.10	+7.1	+19.2
1970 —					September	137.90	140.10	+10.2	+25.4
March	72.70	77.00	+2.3	+6.9	December	154.20	147.60	+5.4	+27.9
June	79.40	79.00	+2.6	+9.1	1975 —				
September	80.90	80.60	+2.0	+8.8	March	143.60	151.10	+2.4	+27.3
December	86.30	82.50	+2.4	+9.6	June	156.30	154.70	+2.4	+21.7
1971 —					September	157.70	159.50	+3.1	+13.8
March	82.00	86.40	+4.7	+12.2	December r	175.80	167.20	+4.8	+13.3
June	89.80	88.80	+2.8	+12.4	1976 —				
September	90.00	90.20	+1.6	+11.9	March p	165.80	171.20	+2.4	+13.3
December	96.00	91.80	+1.8	+11.3					

(a) See paragraph 6 on page 1. (b) See paragraphs 7 and 8 on pages 1 and 2. (c) Percentage change over previous quarter in the seasonally adjusted series. (d) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in the seasonally adjusted series. p — provisional. r — revised.

NOTE. The seasonally adjusted series has been revised following the annual re-analysis of data.

TABLE 2. — AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES (\$)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Old	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.(b)	A.C.T.(b)	Australia
1966-67	63.30	64.10	57.30	57.30	59.40	58.50	..	..	61.90
1967-68	66.70	67.80	60.30	60.60	64.10	62.00	..	..	65.50
1968-69	72.30	72.40	64.50	64.80	69.00	65.70	..	..	70.40
1969-70	78.50	78.40	69.40	70.30	75.70	70.90	..	..	76.30
1970-71	87.30	86.40	78.00	77.20	84.90	78.50	..	..	84.80
1971-72	95.90	93.60	87.00	85.30	93.70	86.80	..	..	93.00
1972-73	104.30	102.50	97.00	93.00	99.00	94.40	..	..	101.50
1973-74	121.00	118.40	112.60	110.60	115.50	110.20	..	..	118.00
1974-75	151.90	148.20	142.40	140.70	146.80	139.70	169.20	184.00	148.40
Original Series									
1974 —									
Dec. qtr	158.20	155.30	148.60	143.80	147.90	145.30	163.10	181.00	154.20
1975 —									
Mar. qtr	147.20	143.30	135.60	137.60	144.20	134.00	174.20	188.60	143.60
June qtr	160.30	155.00	150.30	146.00	155.70	149.40	179.60	190.30	156.30
Sept. qtr	160.20	158.70	150.50	148.30	159.00	149.90	191.00	199.40	157.70
Dec. qtr r	177.50	178.80	170.10	163.80	172.80	165.40	195.00	207.20	175.80
1976 —									
Mar. qtr p	168.10	166.50	158.50	155.50	166.50	151.30	190.50	208.10	165.80
Seasonally Adjusted Series (c)									
1974 —									
Dec. qtr	151.00	148.00	141.70	139.40	144.60	135.00	161.40	180.70	147.60
1975 —									
Mar. qtr	154.60	151.60	144.20	143.30	150.10	145.70	174.80	190.50	151.10
June qtr	158.50	154.20	148.30	145.60	153.80	146.10	186.70	188.70	154.70
Sept. qtr	162.90	159.80	152.30	148.40	159.90	151.80	187.70	198.20	159.50
Dec. qtr r	168.60	169.10	161.10	157.60	168.00	154.40	188.80	208.10	167.20
1976 —									
Mar. qtr p	173.00	173.10	165.80	159.70	171.20	158.70	191.40	216.10	171.20

(a) See paragraph 6 on page 1. (b) Original series estimates for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory have been calculated on a basis which excludes the effects of varying numbers of Australian Government pay-days in each quarter. Estimates for periods prior to 1974-75 are not available. (c) See NOTE to Table 1. See paragraphs 7 and 8 on pages 1 and 2. p — provisional. r — revised.

TABLE 3. — AVERAGE WEEKLY ORDINARY TIME EARNINGS, FULL-TIME
ADULT MALE NON-MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEES, AUSTRALIA (a)

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Original \$</i>	<i>Seasonally adjusted (b) \$</i>	<i>Annual change (c) %</i>
1973 —			
September	94.00	95.00	9.2
December	104.50	100.50	14.2
1974 —			
March	99.00	103.50	16.9
June	113.00	111.50	20.5
September	122.00	124.00	30.5
December	138.50	132.50	31.8
1975 —			
March	131.00	138.00	33.3
June	143.50	142.00	27.4
September	145.50	147.00	18.5
December	159.00	151.50	14.3
1976 —			
March p	149.00	154.00	11.6

(a) See paragraph 3 on page 1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 50 cents. (b) See paragraphs 7 and 8 on pages 1 and 2. (c) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in the seasonally adjusted series. p — provisional.

NOTE. Estimates in this table have been revised since the previous issue.

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